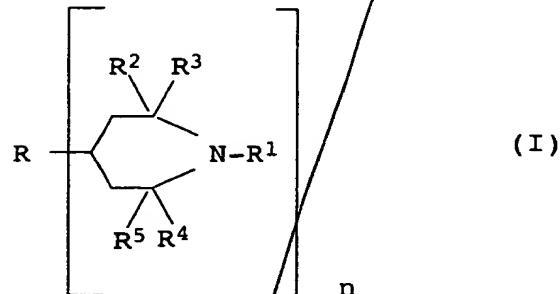


We claim:

1. A process for preparing polyamides, which comprises polymerizing starting monomers or starting oligomers in the presence of at least one compound of the formula (I)



20 R is a C₁-C₂₀ aliphatic saturated hydrocarbon R⁸ which bears 1-4 identical or different amide-forming groups R⁷,

25 R¹ is H, C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, cycloalkyl, benzyl or OR⁶, where

30 R⁷ R⁶ is H, C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, cycloalkyl or benzyl, is selected from the group consisting of -(NHR⁹), carboxyl and carboxylic acid derivatives, R⁹ being H, alkyl having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl having from 3 to 10 carbon atoms or alkylene having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms,

35 R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are independently C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, n is a natural number greater than 1,

35 the piperidine derivatives attached to R being identical or different with regard to the substituents, meaning R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵,

40 wherein the compound of the formula I is added to the starting monomers or to the polymerizing reaction mixture and becomes attached to the polyamide through reaction of at least one of the amide-forming groups R⁷.

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2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the piperidine derivatives attached to R are identical with regard to the substituents, meaning R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵.

Sub D
5 3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein R¹ is H.

4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ substituents on any one piperidine derivative are identical.

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5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein R² on any one piperidine derivative is methyl.

6. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein n is 2.

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7. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein R is a group of the formula - NH - R⁸ - NH - where R⁸ is alkylene having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

20 8. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 2, wherein R is - NH - CH₂ - CH₂ - CH₂ - CH₂ - CH₂ - CH₂ - NH - .

9. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the polymerizing is carried out in the presence of at least one pigment.

25 10. The use of a compound (I) as set forth in any of claims 1 to 9 for preparing polyamides.

30 11. A polyamide obtainable by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9.

Sub B1 12. The use of a polyamide as claimed in claim 11 for preparing filaments, fibers, films, sheetlike structures and moldings.

35 13. Filaments, fibers, films, sheetlike structures and moldings comprising a polyamide as claimed in claim 11.

40

*ADD 7**D²*

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